

4-24-1870

Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, 1870 April 24

Sarah Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Whitney, Sarah and Wellesley College Archives, "Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, 1870 April 24" (1870). *Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence*. 116.
https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence/116

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4) at Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. For more information, please contact ir@wellesley.edu.

[April 24, 1870]

I sit down in the beautiful sun-light
of this ^{sun.} morning of the 24th Apr 1870 to tell my
dearest Anne that the wind is south west
& that I do not "complain of the irregularity
of the mails." Every 2nd Monday brings us without
fail, spite of rain & wind, snow & all disagreea-
bles the dear Budget of good cheer - & as
each fortnight brings us so much nearer to the
day whose anticipation almost stops the
beating of our hearts we can well forgive the
"screaming" when we discover it. We pray
Heaven that you may be saved from the
Roman sickness that you acknowledge &
whose report comes to our ears in too many
ways. It prevents Miss Page & her friends
among whom is a Washington M.D. from
visiting Rome; & I suppose many another
party. Troops of people going eastward
fill the Steamers while other troops are
making their preparations for ^{the} California
trip - Old men & women who have reached
age passed their four score years it is

said are going to dare the perils of the way. even though hostile Indians threaten one of the most fearful. I am glad I am not to be one of the travelers or the child ^{or} sister of one that seeks his or her pleasure this season in Pullman's Palace cars.

A letter rec'd from James written on Thurs. says that he heard on the day before through Miss Manning that "the Romans had engaged passage by steamer that sails for Boston the latter part of June". This makes a clincher to the sorrow that you are not to see Eng. but it brings a joy that can counterbalance it so I don't grumble. May all the virtues you exercise in yr decision be rewarded! Yr next letter will probably answer the questions James & all of us ask as to name & time of sailing of the vessel. Belmont will be ready for its arrival. Already the grass is of a handsome greenness, the apple trees are starred & the catkins of various kinds are exciting my admiration - Mary brought me some of her violets yesterday & Carrie had gathered from hers a week before. Both the Marys were looking bright, reaping the fruit wh. I trust

will be still more abundant of exercise in garden & farm. The younger has been summoned by her affectionate mother to the Probate Court where she had to sit 3 hours - ~~to~~ what result, immediate or prospective I did not learn. As they (the Ms) act under Mr. Sohier's instructions, I take it all the bottles & dogs et cetera are his suggestion. It wd not be pleasant to see the women in the house - they have been seen in the neighborhood - I do think it is all dreadfully sad & strange.

And Edmonia Lewis' experience is a sad one. I am deeply grieved for her & earnestly hope that the calamity she fears, has not fallen upon her. The suspense must be terrible.

Yr account of Miss Cushman & that of her friend & connection Mrs. Carr (?) don't agree. May yr's be the correct one.

The jewelry in wh. you wd have me invest my fortune I fear is of little worth. Our friends' faith in it I suppose stands upon as sandy a foundation as that wh. they have a right to possess in Copper stock. Mr Lambert

was here a day or two since to make inquiry about a boarding place in Franconia that I had heard recommended. He means if possible to take Katy away from the labors of housekeeping. How she can be relieved at the same time from the anxiety respecting the Strawberry household I don't see. I heard the other day for the first time in my life, & saw it repeated the next day in print that "the May hills are hard to climb." Every years experience has shown the fact though it has been put into other words - words that charged Nick & Apr. with all the ruggedness & difficulty. The mildness of the past winter has made ~~made~~ many a trouble-borrower keensighted enough to predict all the bad weather that the Spring months have brought us, though I doubt if the patience to bear it has grown with the prophetic power. This is the 3^d day on wh. the sun has shown his handsome face & the world is jubilant. I want to hear that Mrs Barnard on the bed of pain feels the beneficial influence of the turn in the gilt horse's head. Susan will report on her return, as also of Mary who ~~was~~ has lately been more unwell & Alice who has had a severe cold. On Fri. I called upon the invalids in the Stone block. Aunt Abby is nearly recovered from a fit of Erysipelas that confined her to her bed a fortnight; & Geo. who has been

sent home by his Montreal Dr. for home care was well enough on the day I called to exhaust himself by out door exercise. The other members of the family complain of the "May hills". The west end of the brick house was deserted but the Bulletin from there is scarcely ever satisfactory in Spring or Autumn, Summer or Winter. The Whittneys are about the healthiest people of my acquaintance & the Octogenarians among them make less lament over the highway of life than their juniors. Mother does have some dyspepsia & father can't walk as much as formerly - but their appetite is good & I am earnestly hopeful that you will find them surprisingly unchanged in the long absence. I look into the faces of some of my contemporaries & wonder how it is that the years can write their story there so rapidly - but as it is; & I have to pull off my glasses that generally give me so much pleasure in great disgust if I chance to put them on before I take a parting look in the glass when equipped for a walk or a drive.

On the day I sent off my last letter, Lizzie Livermore came & staid a week. She is much the same Lizzie as formerly with a sad accession of

deafness that makes talking with her a weariness. She is less changed outwardly than I did have expected from the years of anxious care taking wh. are telling upon her health. She is desirous & determined to think to keep the Milford home, though her relatives disapprove. If I expected to visit her often I shd be tempted to beg with her brother's family that she wld sell the Milford house that possesses in our eyes no attractions & buy the Livmore homestead in Wilton that is wondrously charming. But poor Lizzie's heart is among her buried treasures & she wants her ~~the~~ summer home to be there. She consents to spend her winters in Baltimore & Cambridge where she is ~~is~~ loved & petted by the older & younger friends. One of her Baltimore nieces will go to N. with her this week.

I have beside me Miss Seymour's Cream colored circular, wh I fear will be nothing but pearls cast before swine that can't or will not value them. If the document were my own, I shd doubt whether it wld prove valuable enough to warrant the payment of double postage on my letter - so I will only favor you with extracts. After referring to her book "Home the Basis of the State" & saying that "it is not necessary for me to state" my purposes in establishing the above named School (Institute of Home Education) she goes on to say

what she believes in, in the way of thorough education ~~shoulds~~ - "To accomplish these objects, my number of pupils must be limited & my terms necessarily high, compared with other schools. And yet, when it is seen that my price covers all expenses, - that there are no extras to swell the nominal demand, - the comparison will reveal no startling difference. During forty weeks of each year, the young ladies intrusted to me are to sustain the same relation to my care & efforts as if they were my daughters & I in affluent circumstances. Comfort & beauty are to surround them perpetually. The best instructors will be provided in every useful & ornamental branch of education, & every thing under my roof will have my own, direct, personal supervision". &c & so on. The emphasis is her own as well as "washing & ironing are included among their other privileges, just as in their own homes, - they having no other concern in it than being so far instructed in the methods as to be able to instruct others." x "Terms. eight hundred dollars per annum. One half to be paid on entering, the other at the commencement of the second term. Should responses to this circular prove encouraging, the first term will commence on Mon 3. Oct. 1870 - Rev. E. E. Hale his "pastor for more than a dozen years" with one or two others is referred to for further information.

Mon. 26th Edward & I went to Newton yesterday & learned that Ch. Carroll & family are expected home this week. The younger Davison came some weeks ago because he wd not study - the elder is to enter Harvard. The Lambert house was deserted by all but Walter who reported the remainder in tolerable health. This is Club day & I am fearful we are losing a talk by Mr. Channing through my dread of the clouds - They were heavy with rain this morn'g but this P.M. they make a beautiful show against the blue sky.

I hope you will not forget to tell us in yr. next of those "visits to the shanty of a commercial cast". I read the "Woman's Journal" you know & am interested to learn what my sex are doing to show their worthiness to compete with men! By the way you never told me of the reception of one No. of that paper wh. I mailed you you.

Mr. Higginsons Note Book of life with his colored regiment came to us last week & I found it very interesting. He & Mr. Blackwell I think are the ablest contributors to the "Journal". The feminine editors are too much engaged in Conventions & Lectures to write much for the paper. Female opposition to Suffrage begins to look formidable